S/23554

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (29 November 1990–19 December 1991)

FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION: 3 MAY–19 DECEMBER 1991

SECURITY COUNCIL
OFFICIAL RECORDS

FORTY-SIXTH YEAR
SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT No. 1

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S/23554

ISSN 0252-8029

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FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL,
3 MAY-19 DECEMBER 1991

PART I. ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL

A. Introduction

1. On behalf of the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council discharges those functions of the United Nations under the International Trusteeship System that relate to the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In accordance with Article 86 of the Charter of the United Nations, the composition of the Trusteeship Council in 1991, at its fifty-eighth session, was as follows:

United States of America (member administering a Trust Territory)
China
France
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

2. The Trusteeship Council held its fifty-eighth session between 3 May and 19 December 1991 (1683rd-1689th meetings). At its opening (1683rd) meeting, on 3 May, the Council adopted, without objection, its provisional agenda contained in document T/1955 (see annex I to the present report). 1/

3. At the same meeting, the Trusteeship Council unanimously elected the following officers:

President: Mr. Thomas L. Richardson (United Kingdom)
Vice-President: Mr. Jean Felix-Paganon (France)

4. During the session, the Trusteeship Council heard statements by representatives of the Administering Authority and its special representatives and advisers, as well as by other members of the Council (see part I, sect. C, of the present report). It also heard statements by petitioners and considered written petitions and communications (see part I, sect. D).

5. At its 1688th meeting, on 14 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council adopted the report of its Drafting Committee containing the Council's conclusions and recommendations (see part I, sect. I, and part II).

6. At its 1689th meeting, on 19 December 1991, the Trusteeship Council adopted the present report to the Security Council (see part I, sect. J).

B. Report of the Secretary-General on credentials

7. At its 1688th meeting, on 14 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council considered, under item 2 of its agenda, the report of the Secretary-General on credentials. 2/

Decision

8. At its 1688th meeting, on 14 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council decided, without objection, to take note of the report. 3/

C. Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1990

9. At its 1683rd and 1685th to 1687th meetings, held between 3 and 9 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council examined, under item 4 of its agenda, the annual report of the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for the period from 1 October 1989 to 30 September 1990. 4/

Opening statements by representatives of the Administering Authority

10. The representative of the United States of America noted that the Trusteeship Council had been convened to consider the sole remaining United Nations Trust Territory, the Republic of Palau. He recalled that on 12 December 1989, the Congress of the United States had passed the Implementation Act to authorize the entry into force of the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Palau. However, although majority support for the Compact had been voiced in several plebiscites over a number of years, the Compact had not been adopted.

11. In the last plebiscite, held on 6 February 1990, slightly over 60 per cent of the electorate had voted in favour of the Compact, which was not sufficient to satisfy the 75 per cent majority required by the Palauan Constitution. In the light of the results of that plebiscite, the Palauan leadership and United States officials had been assessing what direction they should now pursue. Both parties shared a strong desire to determine a route to Palau's political future as expeditiously as possible.

12. The United States Government recognized that the Compact would not be approved very soon and it remained mindful of its obligations to Palau under the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. 5/ It had considered recent findings by the General Accounting Office, members of the Congress and prominent Palauans that oversight assistance to Palau in the area of fiscal responsibility had been inadequate and should be increased to strengthen the foundation for Palau's future. To that end, the Department of the Interior, after holding meetings with Palauan leaders and members of the Congress, had issued Secretarial Order No. 3142 on 15 October 1990, stationing in Palau an official of the Department of the Interior to report directly to the Assistant Secretary for Territorial and International Affairs.

13. The main thrust of the Order was to reaffirm the United States commitment to its trusteeship responsibilities and to develop a master plan for Palau's economic development.

14. The United States was also urging Palau to come to grips with the question of its political future. The United States was pursuing discussions with the Palauan leadership about the merits and prospects of various options, including independence and adoption of the Compact.

15. The representative of the United States assured the Trusteeship Council that until the future political status of Palau was resolved, the United States intended to continue to exercise its trusteeship obligations fully and responsibly. Although the United States remained responsible for Palau in the field of defence, it had no plans to establish any military bases there.

16. The United States had continued numerous programmes to promote economic, social and educational advancement in Palau. Such efforts, which had involved major investments, had helped Palauans to reach a comparatively high standard of living. Of even greater importance, Palauans themselves had continued to develop their capabilities. The United States was especially honoured to have the President of Palau and a number of other Palauan leaders in its delegation to the Trusteeship Council.

17. Ms. Stella Guerra, Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior and Special Adviser to the Administering Authority, stated that the United States had opened a Trust Territory Government Office at Koror, Palau, in January 1991 and was currently closing down the Office at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. That measure had provided additional resources to Palau and would benefit the relationship between the United States and the Trust Territory.

18. Regarding the budget process, the Assistant Secretary indicated that agreement had been reached on the amount of funds available and that several of Palau's state governors had presented good budget resolutions.

19. The United States was working with the Palauan Government on arrangements for a master national development plan. Discussions on the introduction of this plan had taken place in Palau in January 1991 with the President, members of the Olbiil Era Kelulau (Palau National Congress), the state governors, traditional leaders, environmentalists and concerned citizens.

20. The Assistant Secretary stated that the Government of Palau had already set its priorities and that the United States had funded several repair projects in Palau, including roadwork and the Koror-Babelthuap bridge. She also noted that legislation was under consideration by the Olbiil Era Kelulau for the establishment of a public utilities corporation in Palau.

21. As a result of Secretarial Order No. 3142, the United States was earmarking additional funds for essential activities in the fields of education, health and public safety. The Government of Palau was funding activities not covered by United States Federal grants with local revenues.

22. Regarding Typhoon Mike, which had hit the northern part of Palau in November 1990, she noted that the local disaster-control authorities had done an outstanding job in responding to the needs of the devastated areas. Recalling that President George Bush had declared the Trust Territory to be a disaster area, thus qualifying it for Federal emergency-disaster assistance, she stated that $3,785,694 had been made available by the United States for private and public restoration projects in Palau.

23. Regarding public safety and order, she said that the year under review had been relatively unmarred by violence. There had been one incident in which several shots were fired into the President's office and the parked car of one of his aides. There had been no injuries. She added that 63 individuals from Palau had received law-enforcement training from the Department of the Interior.

24. The Assistant Secretary stated that progress continued to be made in the area of economic development. In January 1991, a foreign investment

conference had been held in Palau under the sponsorship of the Department of the Interior. Regarding tourism, she indicated that during the year under review there had been a substantial increase in the number of tourist arrivals and that new hotels had opened in several areas of Palau.

25. Regarding the future political status of Palau, no new steps had been taken. As far as the United States was concerned, the Compact of Free Association remained an available option. The United States was also willing to consider independence as a status alternative.

26. The Honourable Ngiratkel Etpison, President of the Republic of Palau and Special Representative of the Administering Authority, made a brief statement in the Palauan language in which he extended to the members of the Trusteeship Council greetings from the people of Palau. He then asked Mr. Victorio Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser to the Administering Authority, to deliver a joint statement on behalf of himself, the President of the Palauan Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

27. Mr. Uherbelau noted that Palauans were proud of their country, their cultural heritage and their social, educational and political accomplishments. Palau had untapped natural and marine resources. It cherished its friendly and enduring alliance with the United States. Its economy was on the rise, its health and educational systems were improving, and its government institutions were more efficient than ever.

28. However, there was still need for Palauans to work with the Administering Authority to find solutions to certain social problems. Educational standards lagged behind international norms. Palau's new hospital had still not been completed and the ablest teachers and health-care workers were leaving Palau for better-paying jobs elsewhere.

29. While Palau's economic growth had improved, the attainment of economic self-sufficiency was still distant. Noting the commitment made by President Bush in Hawaii in November 1990 to increase assistance to Pacific island nations, Palau hoped that it, too, would become a beneficiary of such aid.

30. Palau also wished to plead with the United States to encourage its Asian and Pacific allies, in particular, Japan, China, Australia and New Zealand, to step up their economic assistance to Palau.

31. Palau welcomed the Administering Authority's plan for an enhanced physical presence of the Department of the Interior personnel in Palau, but only in an advisory role.

32. Secretarial Order No. 3142 amounted to a usurpation of certain constitutional powers of the Government of Palau and was thus delaying its progress towards self-government. The people of Palau hoped the trusteeship would end on terms mutually acceptable to the Administering Authority and the Palauan people.

33. A Palauan delegation had recently met with representatives of the United States Department of the Interior to explore the possibility of reopening a dialogue to consider amendments to the existing version of the Compact. The delegation had also testified to the Congressional Subcommittee on Insular and

International Affairs on the political status question. It was confident that progress would be achieved and that the Administering Authority would agree with the delegation's recommendation for the creation of a joint working group to identify, discuss and recommend an appropriate course of action.

Statements by members

34. The representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland stated that his Government had consistently supported the efforts of the people of the Trust Territory to achieve whatever form of self-government satisfied their wishes and their circumstances. His delegation had supported the adoption of Trusteeship Council resolution 2183 (LIII) of 28 May 1986, in which the Council recognized that the peoples of Micronesia had freely exercised their right to self-determination and had chosen either free association with the United States or Commonwealth status. The United Kingdom had also voted in favour of Security Council resolution 683 (1990) of 22 December 1990, by which the Council terminated the Trusteeship Agreement 5/ with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

35. The picture emerging from the statements at the current session was an encouraging one, although the major question of Palau's future political status remained unresolved. The majority of Palauans clearly favoured the continuation of a close relationship with the United States.

36. In general terms, the United Kingdom was satisfied that the people of Palau continued effectively to govern themselves in accordance with their Constitution and continued to advance in the economic, social and educational fields.

37. The United Kingdom delegation believed that the introduction of Secretarial Order No. 3142 had been necessary in order for the Administering Authority to fulfil its obligations to the Trust Territory. His delegation hoped that the financial master development plan would bear fruit for the people of Palau.

38. The United Kingdom was encouraged by the continued increase of tourism in Palau. His delegation was pleased that tourism had helped to boost the private sector of the economy and to decrease the dependency of Palauans on government employment. His delegation hoped that the Government of Palau would take steps to preserve Palau's natural beauty.

39. The United Kingdom was encouraged by the progress reported in the field of fisheries and welcomed the training and assistance provided by the Administering Authority in the field of fisheries enforcement.

40. His delegation was concerned about the Trust Territory's dependence on annual infusions of funds from the Administering Authority. Many of these funds went towards vital improvements in Palau's infrastructure. Yet the running costs and maintenance of new roads or hospitals were heavy and Palau's own tax base was inadequate to finance those continuing costs. It was particularly disturbing that imports had risen over the past year from $5 million to over $24 million without a commensurate increase in exports. If a self-sustaining economy and a self-sustaining political system were to be

achieved, two approaches would be necessary, namely, close scrutiny of new projects to ensure that they could be serviced after completion, and growth in the local economy and therefore in its tax base. The development of activities like tourism and fishing as well as the expansion of the private sector of the economy were thus very significant.

41. Encouraging developments had taken place in the social field. The campaign mounted by the Administering Authority in cooperation with the Government of Palau against drug trafficking had been a notable success. The continuation of Federal programmes in health and education was helping to improve standards of living throughout Palau.

42. The representative of the United Kingdom expressed the hope that the difficulties over Palau's future political status would soon be resolved, and he promised the Palauan people support in their efforts to determine at the earliest possible date a future political status in accordance with their wishes.

43. The representative of China said that the principal task of the International Trusteeship System was to further international peace and security and to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence. The Chinese delegation was pleased that the people of the Trust Territory had made progress in those fields. Yet, from the statements submitted by the petitioners, it appeared that some outstanding problems remained.

44. The Chinese Government respected the choice made by the people of Palau concerning their future political status. In order to create the necessary conditions for the realization of self-determination and independent development in Palau, the Administering Authority should, prior to the termination of the trusteeship, fulfil to the letter its obligations towards the Trust Territory and meet the just demands of the Palauan people.

45. The representative of France said that his delegation hoped that appropriate solutions would be formulated as quickly as possible with a view to bringing about a new status for Palau in keeping with the desires of its people. Pending the achievement of that goal, and so long as the Trusteeship Agreement remained in force, it was important that the Administering Authority continue to carry out its obligations.

46. Noting the progress achieved in the Trust Territory in the political, economic and social fields, the French representative welcomed the efforts being made in conformity with the Trusteeship Council's recommendations in the areas of public works, fisheries, health and the fight against drug trafficking.

47. However, it was clear that there remained some difficulties with respect to the economic and social situation and the prospects for political development. He hoped that those difficulties would be overcome. His delegation took note of the redefinition of the respective responsibilities of the United States and the Palauan Government and hoped that the efforts to promote the economic and social development of Palau would continue.

48. The representative of France was confident that the population of Palau would be able to exercise its right to self-determination in the near future.

49. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that the current session showed achievements in a number of fields as well as in the assistance provided by the Administering Authority. At the same time, however, attention should be focused on the remaining problems and unresolved tasks. These included continuing financial dependence on the Administering Authority due mainly to the failure to achieve economic self-sufficiency. A great deal also needed to be done to build the necessary infrastructure to develop agriculture and local fishing, to provide for employment and vocational training, to establish a social security system and to maintain the distinctive local culture.

50. The Soviet representative called upon the Administering Authority to create all necessary conditions to enable the people of Palau to exercise, at the proper time, the principle of the free expression of their will concerning the Trust Territory's future status. He noted that the obligations of the Administering Authority under the Trusteeship Agreement and the Charter of the United Nations would remain in force until such time as the Security Council terminated its responsibility for the Territory. He added that the intention of the United States to implement fully its commitments under the Trusteeship Agreement should be commended.

51. The representative of the USSR said that it attached great importance to the assurances given by the representative of the United States that his country had no plans to establish military bases in Palau. Such assurances, together with the United States position as stated in December 1990 to the members of the Security Council concerning Micronesia as a whole, were in keeping with the developing trend towards the reduction of foreign military presence and the development of comprehensive cooperation in that region.

Closing statements by representatives of the Administering Authority

52. At the 1687th meeting, on 9 May 1991, Mr. Victorio Uherbelau, Special Representative Adviser to the Administering Authority, said that his closing statement would focus on only two issues: the need for economic self-reliance and the resolution of Palau's future political status. Before proceeding further, however, the Palauan delegation wished to salute the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 683 (1990) and to congratulate the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands for having successfully reached the goal of self-determination.

53. He concurred with the statement by the representative of the United Kingdom that economic self-reliance was a prerequisite for political stability and maturity. He also agreed with his remark that a strong economy needed a functioning infrastructure. The Administering Authority was assisting Palau in this regard by putting together an efficient operation and maintenance programme for the road, sewer and water systems.

54. Improvements in the private sector were helping the national and state governments to move away from being the primary source of employment. However, the growth of the private sector had resulted in the undertaking of certain labour-intensive projects requiring more highly skilled workers than

were readily available locally. The Micronesian Occupational College was expanding its curricula to train the indigenous workforce and the International Labour Organisation was working with the Palauan Ministry of Commerce and Trade to identify the training needs and requirements of both the public and the private sectors.

55. Palau welcomed the master plan for the Trust Territory's development announced by the Administering Authority. Its officials were actively participating in the formulation of the plan to ensure that its end-product would be their plan. Palau had a unique opportunity to learn from the mistakes of certain of its neighbours, whose economies had boomed overnight without proper development planning.

56. Palau was aware of its unique beauty as well as of its fragile marine ecology and the scarcity of its land and fisheries resources. It therefore adhered to the objective of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development for ecologically and environmentally sound and sustainable development. As a full member of the South Pacific Commission, Palau was being assisted by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme in putting together a national report on environment and development. An environmental scientist, whose salary would be paid for by the United Nations Development Programme, had been recruited for that purpose.

57. Mr. Uherbelau emphasized that the primary beneficiary of development in any country should be the indigenous inhabitants; development and the pursuit of economic growth should not be oriented to the interests of the foreign investor.

58. On the issue of Palau's future political status, Mr. Uherbelau quoted a statement by President Etpison in the Olbiil Era Kelulau, in which he noted that free association with the United States was most suitable for the economic prosperity of Palau. The United States could assist Palau to achieve self-sufficiency and, once that had been attained, Palau could proceed to work towards full independence.

59. He noted that the President of Palau was echoing the sentiment of the overwhelming majority of the Palauans. While a 75-per-cent-majority vote in favour of the Compact had never been garnered in the plebiscites, the vote in favour had never fallen below 60 per cent. Such a resounding voice of the people could not be ignored.

60. The 75-per-cent requirement for approval of the Compact had been a controversial issue. He said that the people of Palau did not need to be asked to alter their Constitution in order to be able to approve the Compact of Free Association by a simple majority vote. That could be done by implementing an agreement reached in 1984 between the United States and the Palauan Government in which all references to nuclear and other harmful substances had been deleted from the defence and security powers given to the United States, including the nuclear provision of the original Compact.

61. The key to ratifying the Compact in accordance with the Palauan Constitution and by a simple majority was to eliminate or excise the nuclear provision from the Compact and to deal with it as a separate defence treaty matter.

62. He recalled information provided to the Trusteeship Council the previous week 1/ regarding a meeting between the political leadership of Palau and officials representing the Administering Authority on the feasibility of a dialogue on modification of the Compact. At that meeting, the Palauan Government had proposed the creation of a working group to recommend actions to be taken to resolve the impasse.

63. The Palauan Government had noted a statement by a United States representative to the effect that one possibility was for Palau and the United States to agree to tell the Trusteeship Council that the goal was to terminate the trusteeship by a target date. If the Compact had not been adopted by a fixed time, such as one year prior to the target date, Palau and the United States would commence negotiations on winding up the trusteeship with the objective that Palau would become independent on mutually agreeable terms.

64. The Palauan delegation had one reservation to that option: if "mutually agreeable terms" meant conditional independence, Palau would prefer to have unconditional independence.

65. The Republic of Palau valued its friendly and enduring relationship with the United States. However, such a lengthy relationship should some day come to an end and be replaced with another arrangement. Palau preferred a relationship founded on the precepts of free association. It therefore sought to eliminate certain major obstacles or objections standing in the way of the successful ratification of the Compact.

66. Ms. Stella Guerra, Special Adviser to the Administering Authority, said that Secretarial Order No. 3142 had been favourably received by many in Palau, including by previous critics in the Olbiil Era Kelulau and state legislatures.

67. She said that a Trusteeship Council visiting mission would be welcomed in Palau and would be given full access to all parts of the Territory. The mission would find, without doubt, that there was no United States or other military presence there, except for a 13-person detachment of Navy construction workers, known as Seabees, who worked on construction projects suggested and directed by the Palauan Advisory Council.

68. She assured members of the Trusteeship Council that the Administering Authority would continue, in cooperation with the Palauan authorities, to promote economic development in tandem with efforts to protect the culture and environment of the Trust Territory. She noted that Secretarial Order No. 3142, inter alia, placed a moratorium on commercial development in the Rock Islands until a Palauan national master development plan was in place.

69. While both the Department of the Interior and the Palauan Government were concerned with establishing a fair procedure for the continuing development of the Trust Territory, it was for the Palauans themselves to decide on issues such as the sectors for development, the amount of development, protection for culture and the environment, placement of physical infrastructure and financing through fees and other charges on developers. By helping Palau to bring these issues to a national debate, the Administering Authority was providing the Trust Territory with the best possible tools for promoting private sector economic development and protecting its culture, environment and quality of life.

70. The representative of the United States said that it was not the intention of the Administering Authority to force Palau to make a decision concerning its political status but rather to create conditions under which Palau could make its own choice as expeditiously as possible, safe in the knowledge that it had the means to make the transition from trusteeship to its chosen status.

71. He said that the Administering Authority continued to believe that the Compact being negotiated offered the best solution to the status question. The Compact would assure a continuing flow of financial support to Palau while also enabling Palau to become a member of the international community.

72. He noted that the United States had agreed to review a list of suggestions that Palau believed would be helpful in gaining the support needed to win approval of the Compact. He assured the Trusteeship Council that the United States was ready to act with all deliberate speed.

73. If, despite those efforts, approval of the Compact did not materialize, Palau should give serious consideration to the possibility of independence, but only after a period of preparation and under conditions to be agreed between the Administering Authority and the Government of Palau.

74. The United States viewed the International Trusteeship System as a transitional status and hoped that Palau could move on to the next stage in its development at an early date. Until then, the United States would meet its trusteeship obligations fully.

D. Petitions

Oral hearings

75. At its 1684th meeting, on 3 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council heard five petitioners under item 5 of its agenda. 6/

Written communications and petitions

76. At its 1686th meeting, on 8 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council considered 11 communications and 24 petitions. 7/ The list of the communications and petitions, together with an indication of their contents, is contained in document T/INF/39.

77. The representative of the United States, addressing the issues and concerns raised by the petitioners, stated that his country as the Administering Authority would endeavour to take them into account while continuing to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement.

78. The United States representative said that concerns addressed to the Trusteeship Council by some petitioners regarding Secretarial Order No. 3142 were unfounded. The United States had issued that Order solely to address particular problems that had been recurring in Palau in recent years in the financial and administrative sectors. The primary goal in issuing the Order, which had been done only after several meetings with the Palauan leadership,

was to help the Trust Territory to restore its fiscal credibility and to enable the United States to carry out its trusteeship responsibilities in a more effective manner.

79. In particular, the Order enhanced the ability of the Department of the Interior to oversee the implementation of fiscal and administrative policy in Palau and placed certain requirements on the Trust Territory's expenditures and acquisition of further debt. Other provisions of the Order generally reaffirmed existing arrangements between the Administering Authority and the Government of Palau, including review of Palauan legislation and management of foreign relations.

80. Commenting on a concern expressed by one petitioner that Palau needed to obtain the consent of the United States before engaging in contact with foreign States or international organizations, the United States representative said that Palau did not yet enjoy an international personality and could not engage in the conduct of foreign relations in its own name and right.

81. While the requirement for Palau to obtain United States consent for international contacts derived from the responsibilities entrusted to the United States under the Trusteeship Agreement, it should be noted that the United States had approved every request for international contact by Palau and had every intention to continue to do so.

82. Responding to the concerns of several petitioners regarding the Trust Territory's economic development, the representative of the United States said that a technical assistance grant of $58,750 had been made available from the Department of the Interior under which the University of Hawaii Pacific Business Center had been contracted to assist with the development of small businesses in Palau. In addition, the Department had funded a conference held in Palau in January 1991, which had brought together experts to assist the Trust Territory in planning for its expanding tourism industry.

83. The Administering Authority was actively working on improving Palau's infrastructure. During the fiscal year 1991, the United States had made $2.5 million available for repair and upgrading of the Palau/Anguar water systems. It had also allocated over $500,000 to the improvement of the Koror waste-water system and made over $1 million available for repairs of roads and bridges.

84. In order to establish a good database for future planning, the United States Bureau of the Census had provided a grant for the training of Palauans in conducting a population census.

85. A future visiting mission to Palau would find several important changes. New hotels had opened and shopping centres had been expanded. Air Micronesia currently flew into the Trust Territory with Boeing 727s seven days a week. Fresh fish was flown to Japan on a regular basis. Regarding communications, Palau now had 70 facsimile machines, 22 telex subscribers and over 1,200 television receivers for a community of approximately 15,000 inhabitants.

86. Progress had been made in the growth of the private sector and there were currently nearly twice as many workers in that sector as in the public sector. In the standard statistical sense, there was no unemployment in Palau.

87. He added that there was no objective standard of economic development that must be achieved before the Trusteeship Agreement could be terminated. He recalled that in its resolution 2183 (LIII), the Trusteeship Council had declared that Palau, as well as the other elements of the Trust Territory, was ready to assume the mantle of self-government.

88. Although under the Trusteeship Agreement the United States had the unrestricted right to establish military facilities in Palau, it had never done so and did not intend to do so in the future. The United States maintained in Palau only a team of 13 unarmed Navy personnel engaged in the construction of small civil works projects, including schools and athletic facilities. The team was in the Trust Territory at the invitation of the Government of Palau; its equipment consisted of bulldozers and other construction machinery. The Compact of Free Association permitted the United States to establish military facilities in connection with its responsibility for the Trust Territory's security and defence, but in the present situation, the United States did not intend to exercise that right even if the Compact should come into effect.

Decisions

89. At its 1686th meeting, on 8 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council decided, without objection, to take note of written communications Nos. 1 to 11 summarized in document T/INF/39.

90. At the same meeting, the Trusteeship Council also decided, without objection, with regard to petitions Nos. 1 to 17 summarized in document T/INF/39, to draw the attention of the petitioners to the observations made during the current session by the representatives of the Administering Authority and by other members of the Council.

E. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories

91. At its 1686th meeting, on 8 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council considered, under item 6 of its agenda, the report of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories covering the period from 15 May 1990 to 1 May 1991. 8/

Decision

92. At its 1686th meeting, on 8 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council decided, without objection, to take note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document T/1957. 7/

F. Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories

93. At its 1685th and 1686th meetings, on 6 and 8 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council considered, under item 7 of its agenda, the report of the Secretary-General on the item, covering the period from 1 May 1990 to 30 April 1991. 9/

94. The representative of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat introduced the report at the 1685th meeting 10/ and drew the attention of members to some of its highlights.

95. It was a matter of regret that because of financial reasons the Director of the United Nations Information Centre at Tokyo had not been able to visit the Trust Territory. However, the volume of materials sent to Palau had increased threefold in comparison to the previous year.

96. The representative of the Soviet Union said that he was pleased that the comments made by his delegation at the fifty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council had been given due consideration and asked how effective the work of disseminating United Nations materials in the Trust Territory had been.

97. The representative of the Department of Public Information noted that in April 1991 his Department had sent a questionnaire asking for reactions to the materials which had been distributed, but that responses had been slow in coming.

Decision

98. At its 1686th meeting, on 8 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council decided, without objection, to take note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document T/1956. 7/

G. Cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

99. At its 1686th meeting, on 8 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council decided to consider jointly items 8 and 9 of its agenda: "Cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" and "Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination". 8/

100. The representative of the Soviet Union declared that his delegation attached great importance to the expansion and strengthening of cooperation among all countries and United Nations bodies on the question of the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. He regretted that for several years there had been no cooperation between the Trusteeship Council and United Nations bodies dealing with human rights; with good will and proper organization, such cooperation could be arranged. 7/

Decision

101. At its 1687th meeting, on 9 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council decided, without objection, to take note of the statements made on the two agenda items. 11/

H. Attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories and the situation in Trust Territories with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Cooperation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

102. At its 1686th meeting, on 8 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council decided to consider jointly items 10 and 11 of its agenda. 7/

103. The representative of the Soviet Union noted that his comments again dealt with the need for closer cooperation among all United Nations bodies. In particular, close cooperation with the Special Committee would benefit the work of the Council since that Committee had great expertise. The Special Committee was prepared to cooperate with the Trusteeship Council, and he did not think there would be any difficulty in having the Council, invite the Chairman or another representative of the Special Committee to attend Council meetings.

Decision

104. At its 1688th meeting, on 14 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council decided, without objection, to draw the attention of the Security Council to the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Trusteeship Council at its fifty-eighth session concerning the attainment, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, and in particular Article 83, of self-government or independence by the Trust Territory. 3/

I. Report of the Drafting Committee

105. At its 1686th meeting, on 8 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council decided, without objection, to appoint a Drafting Committee composed of the representatives of France and the United Kingdom to prepare draft conclusions and recommendations for inclusion in the Council's report to the Security Council, based on the discussions that had taken place in the Trusteeship Council at its fifty-eighth session. 7/

106. The Trusteeship Council considered the report of the Drafting Committee at its 1688th meeting, on 14 May 1991. 3/ At that meeting, the representative of France, on behalf of the Drafting Committee, introduced the report. 12/

Decisions

107. At its 1688th meeting, on 14 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council decided, without objection, to waive rule 57 of its rules of procedure, which specifies that copies of reports and draft resolutions should be circulated to the members 24 hours in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered. 3/

108. At the same meeting, 3/ the Trusteeship Council adopted, without a vote, the draft conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the report of the Drafting Committee. 12/ The Council further decided that the conclusions and recommendations would constitute part II of its report on its fifty-eighth session to the Security Council. 13/

J. Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council

109. At its 1689th meeting, on 19 December 1991, the Trusteeship Council considered the draft report on its fifty-eighth session to the Security Council.

Decision

110. At its 1689th meeting, on 19 December 1991, the Trusteeship Council adopted the present report, as a whole, without a vote. 14/

PART II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

111. At its 1688th meeting, on 14 May 1991, the Trusteeship Council adopted, without a vote, the following draft conclusions and recommendations (see part I, sect. I):

"A. Political advancement

"1. The Trusteeship Council takes note of its resolution 2183 (LIII) of 28 May 1986, and of its subsequent reports to the Security Council.

"2. The Trusteeship Council welcomes the adoption on 22 December 1990 by the Security Council, as proposed by all members of the Trusteeship Council, of resolution 683 (1990), in which the Security Council determined, in the light of the entry into force of the new status agreements for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands, that the objectives of the Trusteeship Agreement 5/ had been fully attained, and that the applicability of the Trusteeship Agreement had terminated, with respect to those entities.

"3. The Trusteeship Council notes the statement by the President of the Government of Palau on 3 May 1991 1/ that the leadership of Palau continues to review possible options with respect to the resolution of Palau's future political status. It welcomes the assurance of the Administering Authority in its annual report on the Trust Territory 4/

that it is prepared to assist the Government of Palau, at its request, in any appropriate endeavour leading to the final determination of a political status of Palau, in accordance with the free choice of its people. The Council also notes the measures taken in 1990 by the Administering Authority with a view to improving the cooperation between the Administering Authority and the Government of Palau.

"4. The Trusteeship Council expresses the hope that the people of Palau will be able to complete in due course the process of exercising freely their right to self-determination.

"B. Economic, social and educational advancement

"5. The Trusteeship Council notes that the peoples of the Trust Territory, in the exercise of their right to self-government as set out in Article 76 b of the Charter of the United Nations, have elected to assume full responsibility for administration in the economic, social and educational fields.

"6. The Trusteeship Council notes the concerns of the Government of Palau regarding economic development and self-sufficiency. It shares the view that continued efforts are needed in this regard. It welcomes the recent improvements reported in the public health, tourism and fisheries sectors. It expresses the hope that further progress will continue to be made in these and other fields. It also notes the assurances of the Administering Authority in its annual report on the Trust Territory that it will do what it can to assist the people of the Territory to attain greater economic self-sufficiency through responsible economic development.

"7. The Trusteeship Council further welcomes the current consultations between the Administering Authority and the Government of Palau towards a master national development plan and expresses the hope that these consultations will lead to the further economic development of Palau.

"C. General

"8. The Trusteeship Council notes with satisfaction the assurances given by the Administering Authority that it will continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and under the Trusteeship Agreement.

"9. The Trusteeship Council takes note of the statement by the Administering Authority that the United States of America has no plans to establish military bases in Palau."

Notes

1/ See T/PV.1683.

2/ T/1958.

Notes (continued)

3/ See T/PV.1688.

4/ 1990 Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, October 1, 1989 to September 30, 1990, forty-third annual report to the United Nations on the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Transmitted by the United States of America to the United Nations pursuant to Article 88 of the Charter of the United Nations (Department of State publication No. 9846). Copies were transmitted to members of the Trusteeship Council by document T/1954 and to members of the Security Council by document S/22493.

5/ Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (United Nations publication, Sales No. 1957.VI.A.1).

6/ See T/PV.1684.

7/ See T/PV.1686.

8/ T/1957.

9/ T/1956.

10/ See T/PV.1685.

11/ See T/PV.1687.

12/ T/L.1278.

13/ The present report.

14/ See T/PV.1689.

Annex I

AGENDA OF THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION, ADOPTED BY THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AT ITS 1683RD MEETING, ON 3 MAY 1991

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Report of the Secretary-General on credentials.

3. Election of the President and the Vice-President.

4. Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1990: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

5. Examination of petitions. a/

6. Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolutions 557 (VI) and 753 (VIII)).

7. Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III) and General Assembly resolution 754 (VIII)).

8. Cooperation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolutions 2106 B (XX) and 45/88).

9. Second decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolutions 3057 (XXVIII) and 45/105).

10. Attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories (Trusteeship Council resolution 1369 (XVII) and General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV)) and the situation in Trust Territories with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 45/34).

11. Cooperation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI)).

12. Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council (Security Council resolution 70 (1949)).

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a/ See T/INF/39. To be incorporated in Official Records of the Trusteeship Council, Fifty-eighth Session, Sessional Fascicle.

Annex II

MAP OF PALAU, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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Litho in United Nations, New York ISSN 0252-8029 05914—March 1992—2,400